

stayers). As noted, a similar percentage of stayers (27%) need AOD treatment yet have never received any such treatment (vs. 25% among school leavers).

It is important to note that while the two groups do not differ in AOD treatment need or receipt, **when alcohol treatment need alone is considered, a significantly higher percentage of stayers are assessed as needing such treatment (22%) compared with school leavers (17%).**

Table 10 shows that school leavers (76%) are no more likely than stayers (79%) to feel that more AOD treatment services are needed, but **fewer school leavers (44%) than stayers (66%) know where to call for help with an AOD problem. This coincides with the sense that lack of knowledge of or access to resources constitutes a possible problem for the less well-educated.**

## SUMMARY

This report compares young school leavers with adults 18 to 34 years of age who did not leave school to determine whether school leavers are more likely to use and abuse alcohol and other drugs and therefore to need alcohol and other drug treatment. Data are taken from the Tennessee Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Needs Assessment Survey of 1993, a random digit dial telephone survey of a representative sample of adults in 12 regions of Tennessee.

School leavers have an average of about 4 years less schooling than others their age. Young school leavers are much more likely to be poor and less likely to be employed and employed full-time compared to stayers.

School leavers live in larger households, (3.5 members compared to 3.0 members), and these households are more likely to include youth or children under 18 years of age.

School leavers are much less likely than stayers to reside in metropolitan regions.

School leavers are less likely to be very religious and less likely to be Protestant than stayers.

Young school leavers are much more likely to rate their health as fair or poor and to report functional disability than stayers.

School leavers are more likely to be enrolled in Medicaid, now TennCare. They are more likely to be uninsured. Conversely, they are less likely than stayers to be privately insured.

Young school leavers are more likely than stayers to lack a regular source of